

What is Claimed is:

1. In a computer network having a plurality of interconnected computer resources, the computer network having associated with it a data repository that includes a plurality of data items in electronic format distributed widely among the interconnected computer resources, a method of locating portions of the electronic data in the data repository based on a search query, comprising:

processing the search query to determine at least one meaning associated with the search query; and

locating the portions of the electronic data based on the determined meaning and in accordance with a context ascribed to the determined meaning with reference to meanings associated with previous result data, located in response to previous search queries.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the previous result data is organized in a particular manner to ascribe the context to the determined meaning; and

the locating step includes, based on the particular manner of organization, comparing the determined meaning to the meanings associated with previous result data.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein:

the comparing step includes:

comparing the determined meaning to the meanings associated with the previous result data in a particular order that is based on the particular manner of organization.

4. The method of claim 2, and further comprising:

maintaining a store of the meanings associated with the previous result data, organized in the particular manner.

2 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the particular manner is order of locating the
3 previous result data.

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2 6. The method of claim 3, wherein the order of comparing is based at least in part
3 on a relative frequency with which the previous result data has been accessed.

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2 7. The method of claim 1, wherein:
3 the search query is by a particular user; and
4 the previous search queries include search queries by users other than the
5 particular user.

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2 8. The method of claim 7, wherein:
3 the previous result data is organized in the plurality of results stores in a
4 particular manner that ascribes the context of the determined meaning; and
5 the locating step includes, based on the particular manner of organization,
6 comparing the determined meaning to the meanings associated with the previous
7 result data.

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2 9. The method of claim 1, wherein:
3 the method further includes maintaining a pointer store that includes at least
4 one entry pointing to a store of previous result data; and
5 the locating step includes initially locating the store of previous result data
6 based on the pointer store.

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2 10. The method of claim 2, and further comprising:
3 maintaining the particular manner of organization.

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2 11. The method of claim 10, wherein:
3 the maintaining step includes, when a particular previous result data is located
4 based on the search query, organizing the previous result data to influence the
5 prominence with which the located particular previous result data affects the
6 ascription of context.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein:
2 the previous result data are co-accessible by a plurality of users presenting
3 search queries; and
4 in the maintaining step, the organizing step is executed based on the particular
5 previous result data located based on the search queries presented by the plurality of
6 users.

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2 13. The method of claim 7, wherein:
3 the previous result data are co-accessible by the particular user and the other
4 users.

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2 14. A method of emulating access to a data repository by a particular type of
3 access mechanism, comprising:
4 analyzing a collection of representative accesses by the access mechanism to
5 determine a collective access signature; and
6 accessing the data repository by performing actions in accordance with the
7 determined access signature.

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2 15. A method of detecting whether a collection of actions to access a data
3 repository is not by a particular type of access mechanism, comprising:
4 analyzing the collection of actions to determine a collective access signature;
5 and
6 processing the collective access signature to determine a probability that the
7 collection of accesses is not by the particular type of access mechanism.

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2 16. The method of claim 15, wherein:
3 the processing step includes a step of determining a probability based initially
4 on an indication within the collective access signature of a frequency value that
5 corresponds to the frequency with which the accesses are occurring.

1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein:

2 in the processing step, when the frequency value indicated within the
3 collective access signature is above a particular threshold, further processing the
4 collective access signature to determine a probability that the collection of accesses is
5 not by the particular type of access mechanism based on other properties of the
6 collection of accesses, other than frequency, indicated in the signature.

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2 18. The method of claim 16, wherein:

3 in the processing step, the probability determining step includes determining
4 whether the frequency value is above a particular frequency value threshold.

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2 19. The method of claim 18, wherein:

3 the method further comprises determining the particular frequency value
4 threshold based on frequency of prior accesses to the data repository.

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2 20. The method of claim 17, wherein:

3 the other properties includes an order in which the accesses of the collection of
4 accesses occur.

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2 21. The method of claim 20, wherein the method includes:

3 determining the order in which the accesses of the collection of accesses
4 occurs from an order value indicated in the access signature; and
5 comparing the actual order against the determined order.

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2 22. The method of claim 17, wherein:

3 the other properties includes at least one of time between accesses and order of
4 accesses.

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2 23. The method of claim 17, wherein:

3 the other properties includes an access to a data item that would normally only
4 be accessed by an automated mechanism.

2 24. The method of claim 23, wherein:

3 the method further comprises introducing into the data repository the
4 components that would normally only be accessed by an automated mechanism.

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2 25. The method of claim 15, and further comprising:

3 when the collection of actions to access the data repository is determined to be
4 not by a particular type of access mechanism, taking at least one of the actions of:

5 for at least one access after the collection of accesses, modifying the
6 data that would otherwise be provided out of the data repository;

7 for at least one access after the collection of accesses, not responding to
8 the access to the data repository;

9 for at least one access after the collection of accesses, providing data in
10 addition to the data that would otherwise be provided out of the data repository;

11 and

12 for at least one access after the collection of accesses, delaying a
13 response to the access.